

# Bangalore Mirror

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**Locals worry ongoing draining of Ulsoor Lake during its rejuvenation work may prove brutal blow for groundwater table; BBMP confident all care taken to avoid water scarcity**

## SUCKER PUNCH

**Work began over a week ago, and water level in lake dropping fast**

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

**T**he ongoing redevelopment work of Ulsoor Lake by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has become a cause of concern for some residents.

Locals say the lake has been an important groundwater source in the area. However, the ongoing rejuvenation process, which will coincide with peak summer months, may result in dried-up borewells.

"Ulsoor and surrounding areas have decent ground water table due to the Lake. Thus, most of the bore-



KAUSHIK JN

**"We will drain out only 60%-70% of the water. The plan is to desilt 10-15 metre of the lake bed from the banks. Since this is a stage-wise process, there will be enough seepage to ensure that groundwater table does not fall"**

—BBMP official

wells are not very deep, and even a small drop in the water table during the lake rejuvenation process, which coincides with peak summer months of April to July, can result in dried-up borewells," said a resident.

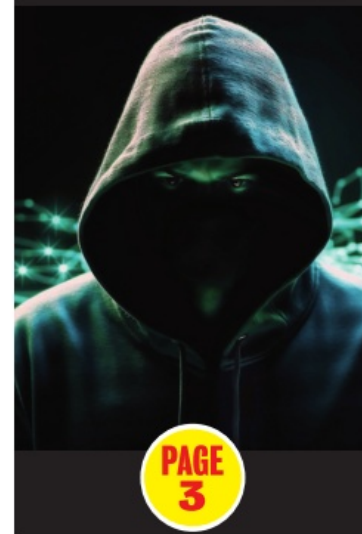
From the time the lake was last drained more than a decade ago, the number of borewells in the area has increased multifold, and the volume of groundwater extracted for both residential and commercial purposes has skyrocketed.

"The detailed project report (DPR) says that the primary objective of the restoration project is to improve groundwater conditions in the surrounding area. Has any estimation been done for the likely reduction in the groundwater

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>**

## PHISH TANK

Citizens feel criminals making most of police not taking action against phishing unless there is loss of money; officials say dubious numbers are blocked



**PAGE 3**

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## THINGS TO DO



### 01 Connective healing

Odyssey Vibes is organising Dear Zindagi Support Circle, an emotional support group meet-up, for those who are grappling with abandonment issues and emotional struggles. The event offers the chance to connect with a wellness adviser and other individuals who have dealt with similar circumstances.

Where: Odyssey Vibes, BTM 2nd Stage;  
When: March 4 to May 6

### 02 Classical tribute

Bengaluru Gayana Samaja, in collaboration with Natanam Institute of Dance, is presenting a thematic production, 'DASA SHRESHTA PURANDARADASARU', celebrating the life and contributions of the great saint-composer Purandaradasaru.

Where: Bengaluru Gayana Samaja, KR Road;  
When: March 9, 6 pm

### 03 Art exploration

Artisera is presenting 'Journeys Within', a solo exhibition by acclaimed artist Gurudas Shenoy. Marking his 60th birthday, this show is a culmination of Shenoy's four-decade long artistic journey, featuring 38 striking works.

Where: Artisera, Indiranagar;  
When: March 8 to March 30

### 04 Drama delight

Prestige Centre for Performing Arts is presenting Chuguru, its first Kannada Theatre Festival. The festival will feature six original productions by theatre groups from Bengaluru, providing a platform for fresh narratives.

Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: March 7 to 9; 14 to 16, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm

### 05 Needle craft

StoryZone is presenting a punch needle embroidery workshop. The focus will be on mastering the art.

Where: StoryZone Studio, HSR Layout;  
When: March 4



### Summer games

A child joyfully plays with water to beat the summer heat, in Bengaluru on Monday

## No city for pedestrians: Bengaluru's streets turn deadly for walkers

Latest report identifies North Division as most dangerous for pedestrians, brings to light concerning number of accidents in East, West and South Divisions

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**B**engaluru's roads are turning increasingly hostile to pedestrians, with a staggering 282 pedestrian deaths recorded in 2023. The city's chaotic traffic, reckless driving, and lack of pedestrian-friendly infrastructure have turned everyday walking into a life-threatening activity. Motorcycles, Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs), and lorries collectively accounted for 75% of all pedestrian fatalities, exposing the grim reality of road safety in the city.

### Deadly: North & West Divisions

According to the latest report, the North Division emerged as the most dangerous for pe-

destrians, reporting 91 deaths, amounting to 32% of the total pedestrian fatalities. Pedestrians are reported to frequently fall victim to LMVs on Ballari Road, lorries on Tumkur Road, and motorcycles on local roads. The West Division also saw a sharp rise in fatalities, with significant deaths caused by LMVs on arterial roads, and a notable number of incidents involving three-wheelers.

### South and East Divisions: High-risk arterial roads

The report stated that in the South Division, pedestrian deaths were concentrated along major highways like Outer Ring Road and Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE) Road, where lorries and LMVs were the primary culprits. Simi-



larly, in the East Division, lorries fatally hit pedestrians along Old Madras Road, beyond Krishnarajapuram (KR Puram), while motorcycles claimed lives across arterial and local roads.

Both these divisions saw most fatalities occurring in daylight, with nighttime deaths clustered on poorly lit collector and local roads.

### Silent killers

More than a third of all pedestrian fatalities were due to motorcycle collisions, making two-wheelers a significant threat to pedestrian safety. The combination of reckless riding, a lack of dedicated pedestrian pathways, and inadequate enforcement has turned Bengaluru's roads into a pedestrian's nightmare. "With traffic chaos mounting and pedestrian casualties on the rise, Bengaluru seems to be living up to a new title—No City for Pedestrian Safety," said Lohith D, an activist. He opined that until authorities take urgent steps to improve enforcement, redesign high-risk corridors, and prioritize pedestrian safety, the act of simply crossing a road in the city could be a gamble with life.

## Fin lit: SBI stands with women

**D**uring the Reserve Bank of India's Financial Literacy Week, held from February 24 to February 28, State Bank of India (SBI) Bengaluru declared that February 27 will be dedicated for conducting maximum numbers of Financial Literacy Camps exclusively for women across Karnataka. SBI's officials, Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs), and Financial Literacy Counsellors conducting over 126 camps in a single day. Over 5,429 women from diverse backgrounds such as Self-Help Group (SHG) members, Anganwadi workers, agricultural workers, entrepreneurs, Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers, students,



A financial literacy camp by SBI

and homemakers were equipped with financial knowledge on critical aspects such as availing credit, financial planning, savings, insurance, cyber security, and budgeting.

Joohi Smita Sinha, Chief General Manager, SBI Bengaluru, said empowering women financially is a catalyst for economic growth.

## Former V-Cs condemn university closures

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**T**he Forum of Retired Vice Chancellors has raised concerns over the Karnataka government's contradictory stance on higher education institutions. While the government has decided to shut down nine universities, including Mandya University, established during the previous administration, it is simultaneously preparing to set up an Agricultural University in Mandya.

During a discussion forum held in Bengaluru on Monday, retired vice chancellors voiced their objections,

suggesting that instead of closing Mandya University, the government should upgrade it into a multidisciplinary and comprehensive institution. They pointed out that significant investments have already been made under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for quality infrastructure, buildings, and academic agreements. "If the government is citing a financial crunch as the reason for shutting down Mandya University, then how does it justify establishing a new Agricultural University in the same location?" the Forum of Retired Vice Chancellors questioned.

### MCU's fate

Dr Gomathi Devi, a former vice chan-

cellor, highlighted the transformation of Maharani Cluster University during her tenure. "When I was appointed as the Vice Chancellor, the University had a funding of just Rs 60,000. Today, that has increased to Rs 58 crore," she said. She noted that currently it has its own campus, 168 permanent faculty members, and a strong academic structure.

### Call for revisions

Other retired vice chancellors at the forum urged the University Grants Commission (UGC) to review its draft regulations. They emphasized that only individuals with academic and teaching experience should be appointed as vice chancellors.

# Cybercrime slips in through loophole: No loss, no action

**Police say there is a portal on which suspicious numbers can be reported; after verification, such numbers are blocked**

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**E**ven as there is a surge in cyber fraud calls, police intervention remains elusive as they step in only if there is a confirmed financial loss. One such citizen, Sudeep (name changed), attempted to file a complaint after receiving multiple scam calls over the past month and a half. However, the authorities reportedly refused to register a case, stating that action would only be taken if money had been lost.

Sudeep has received at least eight calls from different numbers, with scammers posing as officials from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and insurance companies. These fraudsters employ high-pressure tactics, urging victims to act quickly without



time to think. In one instance, a caller claimed that Sudeep's daughter had taken a life insurance policy before her passing and that he needed to make a payment to claim benefits. Recognising the scam, he refrained from engaging with the messages any further.

When he attempted to report the incidents through the national cyber crime helpline 1930, he was redirected to the local police station, saying that no action could be taken in the absence of financial loss. Frustrated, Sudeep questioned the effectiveness of existing cyber-crime reporting mechanisms.

"These fraudsters know they won't be caught unless a victim

loses money. That's why they keep operating with impunity," he said.

Cybercriminals exploit this apparent loophole, with the knowledge that law enforcement will not act beforehand. Detection rates for cyber fraud remain low, as complaints continue to pile up, outpacing investigative resources. In just January, a total of 1,027 cases of cyber frauds have been registered this year and this adds to the previous year's pending cases whose detection is very less.

## **Dedicated portal to report such numbers**

The issue has sparked growing concern among city residents,

many of whom have faced similar difficulties when trying to file complaints.

Commissioner of Police B Dayananda, stated that suspicious numbers can be reported through a dedicated portal. "The Sanchaar Saathi portal allows individuals to report suspicious numbers along with relevant details. Once a number is reported and verified, it will be blocked, preventing others from receiving scam calls from the same number," he told BM.

## **Can insurance company play any role?**

Sudeep reported receiving scam calls from insurance companies. Cyber experts told Bangalore Mirror that most insurers in India have dedicated anti-fraud units under regulatory guidelines. As per IRDAI's Fraud Monitoring Framework, insurers must establish independent Fraud Monitoring Units (FMUs) to detect, investigate, and report fraud. Many companies have specialised teams, including legal experts and data analysts, to track suspicious activities using data analytics. "Insurers have shifted from reactive fraud handling to a proactive approach with dedicated staff and technology," said cyber expert Mirza Faizan Asad.

## **Gold goes missing from bank locker**

**G**old ornaments worth Rs 31.15 lakh have gone missing from a bank locker in Jayanagar. The locker holder, Rajendra C Patil, has lodged a complaint with the Jayanagar police. Patil stated he had rented a locker on June 5, 2021, to store documents and valuables. He accessed the locker multiple times in 2024 using his key alongside the master key held by Assistant Manager Raju. During his last visit in October, he confirmed there were two gold bajubandh inside the locker. When he opened it on February 20, he discovered that the ornaments were missing. He also found an item that did not belong to him. —BMB

## **Delivery agent arrested for murder**

**A** delivery executive has been arrested for allegedly stabbing a security guard to death in Byatarayanapura. The police arrested the accused, identified as Karthik, a resident of MD Block in Malleswaram, for the murder of Ganesh Bahadur Rawal, a security guard at a garments firm. According to police, the altercation began last Thursday when Karthik visited the garment godown to place an order. He parked his two-wheeler near the entrance, leading to an argument with Rawal.

The delivery boy left the scene then, but returned the next day to stab Rawal. —BMB

**B**engaluru's music enthusiasts experienced a magical night as the iconic multi-genre band, renowned for blending rock, folk, and classical styles, Thaikkudam Bridge delivered a performance brimming with soul-stirring melodies and electrifying energy. Bangalore Mirror and Vijay Karnataka were media partners of the concert. The band lit up the stage at Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield, and had fans swaying, singing along, and fully immersed in the moment. Produced by Akar Advertising and Marketing Pvt Ltd and Hummingbird Inc., and sponsored by Canara HSBC Life Insurance, ORRA Fine Jewellery, the concert was a dazzling showcase of musical fusion, raw emotion, and unbridled passion.

From the moment the band took the stage, an exhilarating wave of cheers erupted from the audience, setting the tone for the night. The band showcased their musical prowess with a dynamic setlist that was rearranged from their previous gigs, making it a

# THAIKKUDAM BRIDGE STRIKES A CHORD IN BENGALURU

refreshing experience for fans. As they transitioned from their powerful anthem Navarasam in the beginning after they gave entry to stage to the pulsating energy of Fish Rock, the crowd remained spellbound. Lead vocalist Govind Vasantha's rendition of Kaathale Kaathale added a poignant touch, his voice weaving effortlessly with the rest of the ensemble.

In an exclusive interview, Vian

Fernandes summed up music succinctly: "Rock and Roll". He explained, "Music is pure happiness. For any musician, it's a dream come true, you get to travel as an independent band, embrace creative freedom, and express yourself without restrictions. It's not just about the



music; it's about living the dream, connecting with fans, experiencing new places, and channeling emotions that are too powerful to keep inside. It's a beautiful life."

Fernandes also had a special message for Bengaluru's music lovers. "Be crazy and be the same way you have always been! Bengaluru has always had a deep and thriving musical culture, and we want it to remain just as rich and dynamic as ever."

The ambience at Phoenix Marketcity turned ethereal as the venue transformed into a sea of twinkling lights, with fans waving their mobile flashlights in sync with the band's spellbinding compositions. Whether it was the thunderous riffs of progressive rock or the deep, melancholic strains of folk melodies, Thaikkudam Bridge ensured that every soul present felt a deep and personal connection to their music.

As the final notes resonated through the venue, the echoes of the performance lingered long after the last song. Thaikkudam Bridge once again proved why they are one of India's most revered contemporary music acts.

# Lake or dumping ground?

Newly built road ends up giving trash-throwers easy access to Chikkabelandur Lake

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**R**esidents of Chikkabelandur and Mullur are struggling with unhygienic conditions around Chikkabelandur Lake. They complain that the lake area has become a dumping ground for garbage due to the negligence of irresponsible citizens. Additionally, they find it difficult to walk along the road adjacent to the water body at night, as it remains pitch dark due to the absence of streetlights.

Residents and lake activists have raised concerns that the recently constructed road adjacent to Chikkabelandur Lake has made it easier for people to dump garbage on the lake land at night. "Illegal waste dumping has become rampant after the road was laid. I urge the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Lakes Department to install warning boards to discourage dumping. Additionally, installing CCTV cameras would greatly assist BBMP Marshals in identifying and deterring offenders," said Gaurav, a resident.

Demanding the BBMP Lakes Department to take up the development of the lake as early as possible, a resident said the BBMP Lakes Department has fenced the lake land but not taken up any developmental works. "I want the BBMP Lakes Department to rejuvenate and develop the lake for the benefit of residents. It will be a destination for the residents for a walk in the morning and evening," he said.

A resident, speaking on condition of anonymity, blamed the Panchayat and BBMP authorities for the deteriorating state of water bodies. "Rejuvenating water bodies will help replenish the groundwater table," he said.

When contacted, BBMP Executive Engineer (Lakes) Bhuprada stated that no waste is being dumped in Chikkabelandur Lake. "There is a Mullur Lake adjacent to Chikkabelandur Lake, and many people mistakenly identify Mullur Lake as Chikkabelandur Lake," Bhuprada said.

She said the BBMP Lakes Department has floated tender inviting bidders to develop Chikkabelandur Lake by enhancing storage capacity of lake through desilting and removal of slush, construction of wetland, sewage diversion drains, installation of sluice gate, water body protection and other allied works at an estimated



Chikkabelandur Lake is fenced but the absence of guards, CCTV cameras or lights at night make it easy for people to dump trash

**I urge BBMP Lakes Dept to install warning boards to discourage dumping. Installing CCTV cameras would assist in identifying offenders** —Gaurav, resident of the area

cost of Rs 797.50 lakh. "The development of Chikkabelandur will begin shortly," she said.

## Orange Line likely to get ready in 2029

**Metro expansion continues with Orange Line and other projects set for December 2029 completion**

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**E**ven as groundwork has begun for the Orange Line, Bengalureans will have to wait until December 2029 for commercial operations to begin. Addressing a joint session on Monday, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot outlined the progress of Phase-2A of the Bengaluru Metro Rail Project, which spans from Central Silk Board to Krishnarajapura (19.75 km), and Phase-2B from Krishnarajapura to Kempegowda International Airport (38.44 km), with a total estimated cost of Rs 14,788 crore. He also high-



File photo of Metro work

lighted Phase-3, which includes Corridor 1 from Kempapura to JP Nagar (32.15 km) and Corridor 2 from Hosahalli to Kadabagere (12.50 km), covering a total of 44.65 km at an estimated cost of Rs15,611 crore. All these metro projects are expected to be completed by December 2029.

In addition to metro projects, the State Government, in collaboration with the railways, is developing the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project, covering 148.17 km at an estimated cost of Rs 15,767 crore, as part of efforts to ease Bengaluru's traffic con-

gestion. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot also announced the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Wired and Wireless Technology in partnership with the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, with an investment of Rs 25 crore over five years. Meanwhile, over the past 20 months, the government has cleared encroachments on approximately 5,000 acres of forest land across the state, including 117 acres in Bengaluru.

To further ease traffic within the BBMP limits, plans are underway to construct a 40.50 km double-decker flyover, integrating both metro rail and road, at an estimated cost of Rs 8,916 crore. Additionally, the State has decided to secure a Rs 27,000 crore loan from HUDCO, offering loan security for the Bengaluru Peripheral Ring Road Part-1 project. This ambitious initiative involves acquiring approximately 2,565 acres of land and constructing around 73 km of new road.

"Environmental conservation

efforts have also taken centre stage. To protect Bengaluru's greenbelt and the habitat of rare bird species, 5,678 acres of the Hesarghatta Lake area have been declared as the Greater Hesarghatta Protected Grassland, effectively preventing land encroachment. Additionally, work has begun on developing a large tree park on a 153-acre plantation in Madappanahalli near Yelahanka. Legal proceedings are underway to reclaim forest land worth Rs 14,300 crore, previously allocated to the now-defunct Central Government-owned HMT in Peenya Plantation, to preserve this vital green space. To mitigate human-wildlife conflicts, 78.9 km of railway barricades have been installed during the 2024-25 period. Furthermore, a meeting in Bandipur brought together forest ministers and officials from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh to address human-elephant conflicts, leading to an international conference on the issue and the approval of the Bengaluru Charter," he added.

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**Shocking neglect**  
**Mahalakshmiapuram**



Exposed wires from an electric pole at, VHBCS Layout, Mahalakshmiapuram pose significant danger. But there is no action from BESCOM yet.

**Waste burning**  
**Infant Jesus Church**



Garbage is regularly being burned opposite Indira Canteen on the road to Infant Jesus Church.

**Unsafe footpath**  
**Ashok Nagar**



This is the state of a footpath at Shoolay junction, Ashok Nagar

## IPS officers' clash: DIG transferred

The Karnataka government has transferred Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of the Internal Security Division (ISD), Vartika Katiyar, to the post of DIG and Additional Commandant General, Home Guards, and Ex-Officio Additional Director, Civil Defence. The move comes days after reports of a clash between two senior IPS officers surfaced.

The transfer follows a formal complaint by Katiyar against her senior, Inspector General (IG) Roopa D Moudgil.

In her complaint filed on February 20 with Karnataka Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh and copied to Director General of Police (DGP) Alok Mohan, Katiyar accused IG Roopa of orchestrating the unauthorised access and photography of confidential documents in her office.

According to the complaint, on September 6, 2024, two personnel—Head Constable Manjunath TS and Home Guard Mallikarjun—allegedly entered Katiyar's office under

IG Roopa's directives, using keys from the Control Room to access classified documents, which were then shared via WhatsApp.

Expressing concerns about her career and personal safety, Katiyar stated, "If any untoward incident happens to me in the future, Roopa D Moudgil will be directly responsible."

She further alleged that IG Roopa had threatened to submit a negative annual report against her, adding to the tensions between the two officers.

## Telecommunication consultant to fix jammer issue

In response to ongoing complaints regarding mobile phone usage inside prisons and the lack of network connectivity in residential areas near Parappana Agrahara, the Prison Department has initiated corrective measures.

A private telecommunication consultant firm, along with representatives from various service providers, has been brought in to assess and address the issue.

Director General of

Prisons and Correctional Services, Malini Krishnamurthy, chaired a high-level meeting on Tuesday to discuss the matter.

Officials confirmed that an inspection of all barracks had been conducted, revealing no network availability inside the prison premises.

A detailed probe was also carried out in the surrounding residential areas, where the team found a complete lack of network connectivity,

necessitating immediate action.

Currently, prisons across Karnataka are equipped with 66 jammers, which require upgradation, testing, and recalibration to enhance their efficiency.

Prison authorities have instructed the concerned officials to ensure network restoration for residents, with oral directives issued until further resolutions are made during the scheduled meeting.

# Fake cop preys on couples along B'luru-Mysuru Road

Man would dress up in police attire, accuse victims of wrong-doing and threaten arrest to make them part with their valuables

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The arrest of a fake cop preying on couples on Bengaluru-Mysuru Road, has created ripples of shock. The man, posing as a police officer, would intimidate unsuspecting couples, to extort them of money and valuables. He would lurk around on the service roads, which are often frequented by couples looking for privacy.

A police official said, "The accused would approach young couples and elderly travelers, claiming they were engaging in illegal activities. He would then handcuff them, pretend to arrest them, and force them to comply with his demands. Many victims, out of fear, gave in and handed over their valuables, assuming he was a real police officer."

Describing the modus operandi, the police official further added that the fake cop was operating along service roads from Mysuru to Bengaluru. "The accused, Girish, would dress up in police-like attire—formal pants, red shoes, a black jacket, and a belt—giving him an authoritative appearance. He would approach unsuspecting travelers, particularly couples, accuse them of misconduct, and demand money and valuables in exchange for their release," said a police official.

Investigations have revealed that he has been involved in at least 43 robbery cases over the past seven to eight years, spanning across Mysuru,

**I request the public to be cautious. No genuine police officer would demand money from citizens. If anyone faces such situations, they should immediately report it**



Hassan, and Tumakuru highways. "In one particular incident on February 7, near Jayapura Gate in Ramanagara, he stopped a traveller, Nagendra, checked his car documents, and then threatened him with a handcuff and knife, demanding gold and cash. The victim was forced to hand over 10 grams of gold and Rs 14,000 in cash before being let go," the official added.

### Arrest and attempted suicide

Acting on multiple complaints, police set a trap and apprehended Girish near a 'lover's spot'. Upon realising he was caught, he attempt-

ed suicide by consuming poison but was saved and taken into custody. During interrogation, he confessed to several crimes and led police to the locations where he had committed robberies. Authorities have recovered 108 grams of gold jewelry and two two-wheelers used in his crimes. He frequently changed the colour of his bike to evade detection.

Ramanagara District SP Srinivas Gowda said, "I request the public to be cautious and not fall for such impersonators. No genuine police officer would demand money from citizens. If anyone faces such situations, they should immediately report it," he said.

### 4 dead in first major accident on Bengaluru-Chennai expressway

The partially operational Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway witnessed its first major accident, resulting in four fatalities. The collision between a car and two-wheeler took place near Kuppahalli in Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar district, late Sunday night. Among the deceased were Udwitha (1.5 years old), Ratnamma (50), and Mahesh (40), all passengers in the car. The two-wheeler rider also lost his life on the spot.

The injured include Sushmitha, a pregnant woman, whose condition remains critical. Sujatamma, Sunil, and Virat were also severely injured and have been admitted to KGF Hospital for treatment.

The accident occurred when the car, on its way from Bengaluru to Bethamangala, attempted to avoid a head-on collision with the two-wheeler that was coming from the opposite direction towards Bengaluru. In the process, the driver lost control and the car crashed. Bangarpet police arrived at the scene. Authorities urged motorists to exercise caution, particularly during late-night travel. While construction is still underway in the Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu sections, the Karnataka stretch is completed and is open to traffic without toll charges. Due to the toll-free access, two-wheelers are also permitted on the expressway for now.

## Temporary closure of B'luru East station

Bengaluru East railway station will be temporarily closed for passenger traffic starting March 13, to facilitate major infrastructure upgrades.

Dr. Manjunath Kanamadi, Chief Public Relations Officer, South Western Railway, said, "The closure is necessary for dismantling the existing UP and DN line platforms and laying new tracks for the third and fourth railway lines. As a result, 41 trains, including 15 express trains and 26 passenger/MEMU trains, will no longer stop at Bengaluru East station until further notice.

Passengers are advised to plan their journeys accordingly and check for alternative boarding and alighting stations." South Western Railway will provide further updates on the progress of the work and any changes in train operations.

## Social media debate over Metro v/s auto

The debate over Namma Metro fares continues to spark discussions, and now a social media post comparing Metro and auto fares has gone viral, reigniting concerns about the high cost of public transport in Bengaluru.

A post on X claims that a Metro ride for three passengers from Malleswaram to Yelachenahalli costs Rs 180, whereas an auto ride for the same distance costs Rs 210. The comparison has triggered widespread reactions, with users debating the practicality and cost-effectiveness of each mode of transport.

Some netizens suggested the state government should collaborate with auto unions to promote electric autos as a cost-effective alternative for passengers. Others defended the Metro, saying it offers air-conditioned travel, safety, and punctuality, which autos cannot guarantee. "Autos may allow three passengers, but they are not always a comfortable option," a user commented. Many also pointed out the time advantage of Metro travel, stating that it takes only 20 to 25 minutes for the journey, whereas an auto ride could take longer due to traffic. The discussion reflects the growing concerns among commuters about efficient public transport options.

# Concealed number plates give police a hard time

**Social media tip-off proves useful in one such case; traffic police plan for stricter enforcement with help of citizen participation, AI**

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

**A** two-wheeler rider, who had concealed his vehicle's number plate, was apprehended by traffic police after a concerned Twitter user tipped off authorities. The swift action highlights the increasing role of social media in aiding law enforcement.

The vigilant citizen posted a picture of the vehicle with a concealed number plate on X, tagging the Bengaluru Traffic Police and urging immediate action. Officials promptly tracked down the rider and imposed penalties under the Motor Vehicles Act.

KR Puram Traffic Police apprehended the rider on February 25 near TC Palya Main Road for covering both the front and rear registration numbers. The complaint was lodged at KR Puram Traffic Police Station around 7.30 pm. Officials identified the rider as Kapil M and traced his vehicle, which was swiftly taken into custody. The case was then handed over to the KR Puram Law and Order Police.



Traffic police take help of tech to ensure stricter enforcement

**In 2025, January alone has recorded 14,914 masked number plate cases. Authorities fear that if this pattern persists, the city could see a record-breaking number of such offences this year**

## Cases rise

The number of cases involving hidden or tampered licence plates has been rising. Official data reveals that traffic police recorded 1,14,103 such cases in 2023.

The numbers surged in 2024, with 1,57,665 cases booked. The trend has continued into 2025, with January alone registering 14,914 violations.

Authorities fear that if this pattern persists, the city could see a record-breaking number of such offences this year.

"We take such violations seriously as obscured number plates are often used to evade fines, escape after committing traffic

offences, or engage in illegal activities," a senior traffic police official said. "With citizen participation through social media, we are able to address these violations more effectively."

Traffic police have intensified their crackdown, deploying additional personnel and advanced surveillance technologies, including AI-based cameras, to detect offenders.

In another case, a rider was booked for having a defective number plate after being caught for jumping a signal. When questioned, he was argumentative, prompting officials to inspect his vehicle further. They discovered his number plate had been delib-

erately masked with black tape.

## Unique identifiers

Properly displayed number plates play a vital role in law enforcement, road safety, and traffic management. They serve as unique identifiers linking vehicles to their registered owners, ensuring accountability. Law enforcement agencies rely on vehicle numbers to track traffic violations, investigate crimes, and trace vehicles involved in accidents or illegal activities. Clearly visible number plates prevent vehicle misuse in criminal activities and help authorities hold offenders accountable.

One of the main reasons riders conceal their number plates is to avoid detection for traffic offences such as speeding, signal jumping, and riding without helmets. In some cases, obscured plates have also been linked to criminal activities, including chain snatching and hit-and-run incidents.

## 2-wheeler riders come up with devious ways

Traffic officials noted that two-wheeler riders are coming up with increasingly creative ways to obscure their number plates, such as using stickers or foldable plates. One of the most common tricks is altering digits—for example, changing a '3' into an '8' with a marker. This deceptive practice often results in innocent vehicle owners receiving fines meant for offenders. Under Section 177 of the Motor Vehicles Act, offenders found concealing or tampering with their number plates face fines ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 5,000, along with the possibility of license suspension.

## 55 Cauvery connect centres

**W**ith the onset of summer, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has decided to open 55 'Cauvery Connect Centres' across the city, including 110 villages, to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply. While 104 of these villages already receive Cauvery water, only 17,000 households have been connected so far, leaving many residents reliant on groundwater. A study by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) warns that groundwater levels in 30 wards could drop by nearly 25 meters.

To address potential shortages, BWSSB will allow residents to purchase water from these centres. The board has set a price of Rs 90 for 1,000 litres, with bookings required in advance. Residents must arrange their own tankers, or opt for BWSSB.

-BMB

## Electrification for the first time

**I**f a brief power outage can make us feel as if everything has come to a halt, imagine the plight of villagers who have never had electricity. After 78 years of independence, the tribal hamlet of Palar in Chamarajanagar district has finally been electrified, bringing light to homes that had only known darkness.

Despite being just 50 km from an electrified area, Palar remained in the dark due to its location within a protected forest. Now, thanks to a Rs 42 crore government project, electricity has reached 33 remote villages in the district. On Sunday, District In-charge Minister K Venkatesh inaugurated the power supply in Palar.

-BMB

## ID cards to street vendors

**B**MP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has instructed officials to distribute identity cards to street vendors identified in a recent survey across BBMP limits. At a meeting at the BBMP head office on Monday, he stated that around 27,000 street vendors have been identified across all eight zones and should receive their ID cards at the earliest. He also emphasised that vendors must operate only in designated vending zones.

BMB

# BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

## Cable car project plan revived near Mallalli waterfalls

**Govt appoints consultants for project, the idea for which was first discussed in 2012; implementation is likely to boost tourism in Kodagu and create employment**

Sridhar.Vivan  
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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

**T**he much-awaited Ropeway-Cable Car project for Kodagu district has been revived, with the government moving forward with plans near Mallalli Waterfalls in Somwarpet Taluk. The idea for this

project was first discussed in 2012 during the Investors Meet organised by the Kodagu District Chamber of Commerce in Madikeri. During this event, discussions were held regarding the cable car project near Mallalli Waterfalls.

## Project update

The government has now appointed business consultants for the project near Mallalli Hill, and stakeholders have come forward to support the initiative. Work orders have been issued, confirmed the Tourism Minister, signalling a major step toward implementation.

## Job creation and Economic growth

Sources indicate that the implementation project is expected to boost tourism in Kodagu while also creating



The Mallalli Waterfalls in Somwarpet Taluk

local employment opportunities. Many young people from nearby villages, including Mallalli, have been migrating to towns in search of jobs,

and this initiative aims to generate employment in the region. Business consultants are scheduled to visit Mallalli soon to draft the project layout. The development is expected to enhance business, tourism, and local economic growth.

Madikeri MLA Dr Mantar Gowda stated, "The government has granted permission for the cable car project, and the business consultants will soon visit Mallalli to finalise the plans."

## Linking Mallalli to Subrahmanya

Two entities have already expressed interest in investing in the project. If successfully implemented, the cable car will connect Mallalli to Subrahmanya, reducing travel time to just 30 minutes. The required land for the ropeway route has already been

acquired, and necessary approvals have been obtained from the relevant authorities.

To power the cable car system, a dedicated power plant will be set up in Mallalli, generating 15 to 20 megawatts of electricity. Pillars will be constructed from Mallalli to Subrahmanya, and the ropeway infrastructure will be installed accordingly. The project is expected to boost heli-tourism and promote Kodagu as a global tourist destination, similar to renowned international locations.

However, environmental concerns remain. Some activists, including Colonel CP Muthanna, have raised objections, arguing that Kodagu is already experiencing an influx of tourists. He emphasised the need to protect the region's natural beauty and warned of potential deforestation and ecological damage due to the project.



# CLOUDY, WITH A CHANCE OF...

## Scientist explains the different cloud types and how they help forecast weather

I'm a meteorologist, and I've been fascinated by weather since I was 8 years old. I grew up in Minnesota, where the weather changes from wind-whipping blizzards in winter to severe thunderstorms – sometimes with tornadoes – in the summer. So, it's not all that surprising that I've spent most of my life looking at clouds.

All clouds form as a result of saturation – that's when the air contains so much water vapor that it begins producing liquid or ice.

Once you understand how certain clouds develop their shapes, you can learn to forecast the weather.

### Cotton ball cumulus clouds

Clouds that look like cartoon cotton balls or cauliflower are made up of tiny liquid water droplets and are called cumulus clouds.

Often, these are fair-weather clouds that form when the Sun warms the ground and the warm air rises. You'll often see them on

humid summer days.

However, if the air is particularly warm and humid, and the atmosphere above is much colder, cumulus clouds can rapidly grow vertically into cumulonimbus. When the edges of these clouds look especially crisp, it's a sign that heavy rain or snow may be imminent.

### Wispy cirrus are ice clouds

When cumulonimbus clouds grow high enough into the atmosphere, the temperature becomes cold enough for ice clouds, or cirrus, to form.

Clouds made up entirely of ice are usually more transparent. In some cases, you can see the Sun or Moon through them.

Cirrus clouds that form atop a thunderstorm spread outward and can form anvil clouds. These clouds flatten on top as they reach the stratosphere, where the atmosphere begins to warm with height.

However, most cirrus clouds aren't associated with storms at all. There are many ice clouds

associated with tranquil weather that are simply regions of the atmosphere with more moisture but not precipitation.

### Fog and stratus clouds

Clouds are a result of saturation, but saturated air can also exist at ground level. When this occurs, we call it fog.

In temperatures below freezing, fog can actually deposit ice onto objects at or near the ground, called rime ice.

When clouds form thick layers, we add the word "stratus," or "layer," to the name. Stratus can occur just above the ground, or a bit higher up – we call it altostratus then. It can occur even higher and become cirrostratus, or a layer or ice clouds.

If there's enough moisture and lift, stratus clouds can create rain or snow. These are nimbostratus.

### How mountains can create their own clouds

There are a number of other unique and beautiful cloud types that can form as air rises over mountain slopes and other

topography.

Lenticular clouds, for example, can look like flying saucers hovering just above, or near, mountaintops. Lenticular clouds can actually form far from mountains, as wind over a mountain range creates an effect like ripples in a pond.

Rarer are banner clouds, which form from horizontally spinning air on one side of a mountain.

### Wind plays a big role

You might have looked up at the sky and noticed one layer of clouds moving in a different direction from another. Clouds move along with the wind, so what you're seeing is the wind changing direction with height.

Cirrus clouds at the level of the jet stream – often about 6 miles (10 km), above the ground – can sometimes move at over 200 miles per hour (320 km per hour). But because they are so high up, it's often hard to tell how fast they are moving.

(Ross Lazear, University at Albany, State University of New York, *The Conversation*)

## MIRRORLIGHTS

### Sleep patterns may reveal comatose patients with hidden consciousness: Study

Several studies conducted over the last decade have found that up to a quarter of unresponsive patients with recent brain injuries may have a level of consciousness that is generally hidden from their families and physicians.

New research from Columbia University and NewYork-Presbyterian may soon help physicians identify unresponsive brain-injury patients with hidden consciousness who are likely to achieve long-term recovery by looking for brain waves that are indicative of normal sleep patterns.

"We're at an exciting crossroad in neurocritical care where we know that many patients appear to be unconscious, but some are recovering without our knowledge. We're starting to lift the lid a little bit and find some signs of recovery

as it's happening," says Jan Claassen, associate professor of neurology at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, who led the study.

"Families of my patients ask me all the time, will my mother wake up? How is my mother going to look in three, six, or 12 months? Very often we cannot guide them very precisely, and it's crucial that we improve our predictions to guide their decision making."

Claassen, who is also chief of critical care and hospitalist neurology at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center, has previously developed sophisticated techniques to identify patients with hidden consciousness by analyzing a patient's EEG recordings as they are presented with a command

in the neurocritical care unit. The techniques detect EEG brain wave activity, indicating that the patient can hear and understand their physicians' instructions (to open and close their hand, for example) even though the patients do not physically respond.

But the techniques can be difficult to implement and can yield false-negative results.

Claassen decided to focus on sleep, as brain circuits that are fundamental for consciousness, including cognitive motor dissociation, are also critical to control sleep.

"I'm always thinking about how my work can be best implemented and used in the real world, and looking at sleep made sense practically and scientifically," Claassen says. "Sleep brain waves are easy to record and do not require

intervention from the care team."

In the new study, the researchers looked through EEG recordings of overnight brain activity in 226 comatose patients who also underwent the more complex testing for cognitive motor dissociation.

"The electrical activity during sleep looks relatively chaotic, and then occasionally in some patients, these very organized, fast frequencies appear," Claassen says. These bursts—called sleep spindles—often preceded the detection of cognitive motor dissociation with the more complex method, the return of consciousness, and long-term recovery.

"Spindles happen normally during sleep and they're showing some level of organization in the brain, suggesting circuits between the thalamus and cortex needed for consciousness are intact."

—ANI



## All you need to know about...

### 5 ways to beat stress

#### Laugh

Shove a quick laugh in-between those taxing times at office or home to calm those jittery nerves. Watch a funny clip on YouTube, read some jokes or talk to a person who you think will surely make you smile. At times, you do need to make a conscious effort and find time to laugh.

#### Cook

Try to take out some time in the day to dish up a meal for yourself or your beloved ones. Specially, when you reach home after a stressful day at work, cooking can be therapeutic and help to de-stress and relax. It's a great way to bond with family, too.

#### Meditate

Even if you can shut yourself for ten minutes from what is happening around you and concentrate on your breathing and inner self, it will ease off a lot of tension. It can also help ward off panic attacks.

#### Clean up

A de-cluttered space contributes to a de-cluttered mind. Make it a habit to clean your cabin or desk before you get down to work everyday. A messy workplace is the breeding ground for anxiety and can make work seem too tedious and endless.

#### Run

If you think that stress is getting a better hold of you and it's getting difficult to concentrate, just take out 30 minutes in a day to run and run to better your life. It gives a sense of liberation from everything that is holding you back from accomplishing your goals.

—Femina

# 'Human-elephant conflict issue to be resolved soon'

**K**arnataka Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre has said that the elephant conflict issue in the Hassan district will be solved soon.

The Minister was visiting the family of a person who was killed in an elephant attack recently.

"A permanent solution to the elephant-human conflict issue in Kodagu, Hassan, and Chikkamagaluru district is if 200 elephants living outside forests in these districts are captured and accommodated in the proposed elephant park in Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary," said Khandre.

The Minister stressed inter-district coordination and efficient use of technology to prevent damage to human lives and crops.

Khandre also stated that there is a demand to increase the ex-gratia amount in case of damage, and the government will look into the issue. Similarly, a system will be put in place to provide speedy compensation for crop damage.



He also suggested a WhatsApp group to inform the district administration, panchayat, and locals about the movement of elephants. Khandre said the death toll could have been prevented if people were alerted in advance.

The Minister also informed that a study on measures for contraceptive operation of female elephants to control population is ongoing in the Indian Institute of Science. Once the study report is available, action will be taken as per the Supreme Court verdict and the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act.

BMB

# 'Set up system to get instant updates on river bank changes'

**T**he High Court has directed the State government to establish a system providing instant updates regarding alterations to river banks and sand bars within Karnataka.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj said, "It is high time that the available technology is harnessed to address these kind of issues and the State of Karnataka implements a satellite based imagery system through the Department of Mines and Minerals and or such other departments like the Revenue Department, Forest Department etc.,

So that the boundaries of the rivers, Sand Bars and such other details are identified and marked on satellite maps and any change which occurs there-to, is notified to the concerned authorities to take necessary action."

The court stressed on the importance of doing this. "This being all the more essential since unauthorised and indiscriminate river mining/sand mining has resulted in drying up of the rivers and in some cases causing the death of rivers. Thus, adversely affecting the drinking water supply of all human beings, which could result in severe consequences in the future."

The court instructed the Principal Secretary of Revenue Department, Director of Mines and Minerals, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, and Principal Secretary of e-Governance Department to collaborate with ISRO to implement a real-time monitoring system for changes.

The directive came whilst approving a petition by Bhagavant Alagur contesting the Tashildar's order that placed a charge on his property for allegedly storing 2,904 metric tonnes of sand without authorisation. The action stemmed from claims that the sand was extracted from the Krishna River bed and the petitioner was engaged in selling the river sand.

# Destruction of court records: HC asks registry to respond

**T**he High Court issued a notice on Monday to the High Court Registry and others regarding a petition challenging the amendment to High Court Rules that allows destruction of court records after five years.

Chief Justice NV Anajaria and Justice MI Arun, forming a division bench, responded to the petition filed by Advocate NP Amruthesh contesting the amendment to Rule 3 of the High Court of Karnataka Rules 1959. The court stated, "The court is aware that the issue raised is to be decided on the administrative side. However, in order to arrive at an appropriate conclusion in respect of the case of petition, notice is issued to respondents and assist the court in the course of the hearing."

The bench directed, "Notice returnable on March 19, on that date R1 (Registry) shall put up the necessary facts in relation to dealing with the records, which are otherwise to be destroyed at the end of 5 years." The petitioner's counsel highlighted that under Article 215 of the Constitution, the High Court, like the Supreme Court, functions as a court of record. The counsel noted that the Supreme Court, under Article 129, has established rules for permanent record preservation.

Rules 2 and 3 of Karnataka High Court Rules currently allow record destruction after 30 years and 5 years respectively. This was argued to contradict the High Court's status as a court of record, where documents should be permanently maintained for effective "administration of justice", especially considering case decision delays. The petitioner requested an interim stay on the rule and halt to record destruction. Reference was made to the Bombay High Court, where records dating back to 1862 remain preserved.

The Registry's representative assured that no records are currently being destroyed and promised to provide comprehensive details at the next hearing, whilst acknowledging storage constraints. The next hearing is scheduled for March 19.

## Your Connect

### jobs

### SITUATION VACANT

### OTHER VACANCIES

### DRIVERS

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### personal

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Prakasha A J S/o Junjappa R/o Anganavadi School, T Aghara, Tarahunase, Bangalore 562157** have changed my name to **Prakash A J** for all purposes.

**I, Shreyanka Sujay Naidu D/o Sathya Priyanandan M R/o No 3987 3rd Cross Shankar Nagar Mandya 571401** have changed my name to **Shreyanka Nandan M** for all purposes

**I, Jagata Laxmi Narasimha Rao, Residing At House No 187 Vsl Srinidhi Greenage, Chamenahalli Nerige Road, Near Godrej 24 Apartments, Bengaluru Karnataka 562125, Have Changed My Name To Jagata Lakshmi Narasimharao.**

### Change of Name

**I, Sreesha Naga Satya, R/at C Block, House No. 009, M J Lifestyle Amadues, Rayasandra, Huskur, Bangalore 560099** have changed my name to **Sreesha Naga Satya CH** for all practical purposes vide affidavit dt. 28.02.2025 sworn before Notary B M Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

**I, Fayaz Pasha Syed Yakub r/o # 467, 2nd floor Chamundinagar main road ,R T Nagar Bengaluru-560032** changed my name to **Fayaz Pasha**

**I, Poornima W/o Satish Shivanand Chandodi R/o no 376 9th block 4th main 7 A cross vinayaka layout Nagarbhavi 2nd stage Bengaluru 560072** have changed my name to **Poornima Joteppa**

**I, Pruthvi Jagadesh Padubidre, w/o Jagadesh Venkat Rao Padubidri, R/o 92/A, 1st Cross, Kathriguppe, Bsk 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085** have changed my name to **Pruthvi Jagadish** for all purposes.

**I, Ishrat Banoo Sohail Chowdhary R/o No 59/3 Swastik Road Shanthi Nagar Bengaluru - 560027** have changed my minor son's name from **Mohammed Mehdi** to **Mohammed Mehdi Choudhary**.

**I, Ameer Sab Subhan S/o Ameer sab Door No.31, Opp Sri Sai Health Care , 3rd Cross, Near D Cross, Bidrahalli Bengaluru-560049, Karnataka** changed my name to **Subhan** for all purposes.

**I, Parul Jha R/o B2007, Brigade Exotica, Burgundy Tower, Budigere Cross, Avalahalli, B'tore 570049** have changed my minor daughter name from **Kaashvi Parul Sharma** to **Kaashvi Jha** for all purposes

**I, V PRAVEENA W/O DIDDI SANTHOSH KUMAR R/o 22, NANDANAM APARTMENT G1, 2ND, OWNERS COURT WEST KASAVANAHALLI CARMELARAM BENGALURE -560035.** I have changed my name to **PRAVEENA DIDDI** vide affidavit dated: 01/03/2025 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore.

**I, Sandeep S/o, Rajeeva Shetty R/o No 67, House No 4, 4th Main Road, Shirdi Sai Layout, Seeghalli, Virgonagar, Bangalore 560049** have changed my name to **Sandeep R Shetty** for all purposes.

**I, Sharanabasu S/o, Gurulingappa R/o No 3/93, Near Mallikarjun Temple, Gobbur B, Dist Kalaburagi 585265** have changed my name to **Sharanabasu G Padashetty** for all purposes

**I, Chandan S/o Devendrappa .G.R R/O 3rd Cross, Kumaraswamy Layout, Nariguddanahalli Circle, Chikkamagaluru 577102, Ka** have changed my name to **Chandan Patil** for all purposes.

**I, Mahesh Bojanala, R/o #406, Srushti Classic Apartment, 1st Cross, 4th Block, Brundavan Layout, Ayyappa Nagar KR Puram, Bangalore - 560036** have changed my daughter name(minor) from **Varsha Mahesh Bojanala** to **Veeksha Mahesh Bojanala**

**I, PARAMITA DEY W/o PARIMAL DEY R/o S2, JANA JEEVA ENCLAVE 27TH CROSS, KAGGADASAPURA, C V RAMAN NAGAR, BENGALURU-560093.** I have changed my name to **PAROMITA DEY** vide affidavit dated: 27/02/2025 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore.

**I, NIKITA PARATE D/o DEORAO PARATE R/o FLAT NO.13202, BUILDING-1, TOWER-3, PRESTIGE JINDAL CITY, TUMKUR MAIN ROAD, CHIKKABIDARAKALLU, NAGASANDRA, BENGALURU-560073.** I have changed my name to **NIKITA DEORAO PARATE** vide affidavit dated: 27/02/2025 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore.



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# What will this bring to the groundwater table?

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

table in the areas during the months that the lake is going to be dry? What is going to be the estimated drop in the water table? Are there mitigation plans in place?" questioned the resident.

Sunil Sharma, a resident of Kenilworth Apartment opposite Ulsoor Lake and a regular walker, says BBMP should have resorted to dredging.

"Work has started more than a week back, and the water level in the lake is dropping fast. Water scarcity during summer is one of the biggest issues that Bengaluru has been facing over the last few years. Instead of emptying the lake, BBMP should have resorted to dredging. The current approach of lake development appears to be not well-researched," said Sharma.

## Not an option

According to BBMP officials, dredging was not an option as the process is expensive. Moreover, care is being taken to ensure that the groundwater table in the area remains stable despite the ongoing work.

"The idea behind taking up the redevelopment of Ulsoor Lake is to increase storage capacity of the water body. To do that, we need to remove the extra silt accumulated. However, we are also concerned about groundwater table in the area, and thus, the work



KAUSHIK JN

has been planned accordingly. We will drain out only 60%-70% of the water. The plan is to desilt 10-15 metre of the lake bed from the banks. Since this is a stage-wise process, there will be enough seepage to ensure that groundwater table does not fall," said a senior official from BBMP's Lakes Department.

The rejuvenation process is expected to take one year to complete and is being executed at the total cost of Rs 25 crore. Once completed, it is expected to improve ground water conditions in the surroundings, improve water quality in the lake, and improve recreational space, apart from other improvements.



**SANDALWOOD SHOTS**  
 Y MAHESWARA REDDY

## In father's footsteps



**D**irector Raj Kishore, who is known for handling megaphone for 25 Kannada movies, passed away in 2008. Now, his daughter Shilpa Prasanna debuts as a director in Sandalwood with the film Apple Cut. Its trailer was unveiled by Golden Star Ganesh at a function held at Kalavidara Sangha on Thursday. Former corporator Dase Gowda was the guest.

"I do not attend promotional events for other movies usually, but I agreed to attend this function after coming to know that its director is the daughter of Raj Kishore. I could not say no when my friend and well-wisher Dase Gowda asked me to attend this event. The quality of the trailer is good. Its content is quite different," said Ganesh.

The movie is bankrolled by Shilpa Prasanna under the Sanvi Predictions banner. It is scheduled for release on March 7. Sindhu thanked Ganesh and Shilpa Prasanna.

## New producer

**H**aving acted in over 25 Kannada movies, Anita Bhat has now graduated as a full-fledged producer in Sandalwood by bankrolling Ugraana, a murder mystery.

"I always wanted to do something special independently. To become self-reliant, I started a wellness centre before the lockdown, and it did not bring me cheers. I decided to bankroll movies, and I established the ABC Productions banner. I bankrolled the Kannada movie Indira on a trial basis. It has turned out well and I earned some profit from it. After tasting success, I decided to bankroll Ugrana. The idea of making Ugrama came to my mind while acting in the film Balepet directed by Rishikesh," says Bhat.

She said that director Rishikesh agreed to be a business partner. "I decided to bankroll this movie because of Rishikesh's direction skills. My friends and well-wishers were also ready to invest money to make Ugraana. The shooting wrapped up in 60 days". It was shot in Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Sagara, Thirthahalli, Moodabidri, Sirsi, Gokarna, and Hosagunda.



"The budget of the movie doubled from its original estimate as we did not compromise with the quality. I play a key character in the film too," she said.

# OSCAR 2025

**Mikey Madison's big win, Diane Warren's 16th loss, 'I'm Still Here' takes best international feature**

**F**rom Mikey Madison taking home the Best Actress award to 'I'm Still Here' beating 'Emilia Perez' for Best International feature film and Diane Warren's 16th loss, the 97th Academy Awards was full of snubs and surprises.

### Surprise:

Mikey Madison wins Best Actress

Demi Moore, who bagged a Critics Choice, SAGs and Golden Globes award for her performance in 'The Substance', missed the trophy at the Oscars. While Mikey Madison took home the Best Actress award for her performance in 'Anora'.

**Snub:** Original Song performances Some of the most memorable Oscar moments of all time have been the best original song performances, from Diana Ross and Lionel Richie's 1982 rendition of "Endless Love" to last year's "I'm Just Ken" spectacular. Sure, none of this year's nominees reach the heights of all-timers like "My Heart Will Go On" or "Shallow," but let's give these tunes their moment to shine, reported Variety.

**Surprise:** 'I'm Still Here' takes best international feature over 'Emilia Perez' Walter Salles' directorial 'I'm Still Here' bagged the Best International Feature Film Oscar on Sunday, marking the first time that an entry from Brazil has won in the category. The film emerged victorious by defeating France's "Emilia Perez," Germany's "The Seed of the Sacred Fig," Denmark's "The Girl With the Needle" and Latvia's "Flow."

Given the 13 nominations 'Emilia Perez' had over the three nods for 'I'm Still Here' and it looked like if the former will take the award but, "I'm Still Here" lifted the trophy

# SNUBS AND SURPRISES



**Clockwise from top: Zoe Saldana; Walter Salles and Mikey Madison win, while Demi Moore misses out; Selena Gomez, Cynthia Erivo and Halle Berry add pizzazz to the red carpet**

**Snub:** Diane Warren's 16th Oscar loss Legendary screenwriter Warren lost the Oscar Sunday night after her 16th best original song nomination. This time, it was for the "Six Triple Eight" song "The Journey," which was performed by H.E.R., as per the outlet.

### Surprise:

'Flow' takes best animated feature: Latvian director Gints Zilbalodis' "Flow" won the Oscar for best animated feature at the 97th Academy Awards. The small Latvian film edged out The Wild Robot and Inside Out 2.

### Surprise:

Sean Baker wins best editing The writer-director of "Anora" also edited his film; however, many expected "Conclave" to take home the editing Oscar. But Sean Baker's win turned out to be a surprise for everyone.

**Snub:** Michelle Trachtenberg, Tony Todd and the other big names omitted from the In Memoriam. Names of late movie stars Shannen Doherty, and Olivia Hussey too missed out.

**Surprise:** "Emilia Perez" tied for biggest Oscar loser of all time. The film lost in 11 other categories.

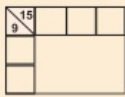
### Surprise:

"No Other Land" wins best documentary, even without U.S. distribution. Voters could see "No Other Land" through screenings and special screenings, of course, but it's unusual for a film without U.S. distribution to gain so much momentum to get nominated, let alone win, as per the outlet.

—ANI

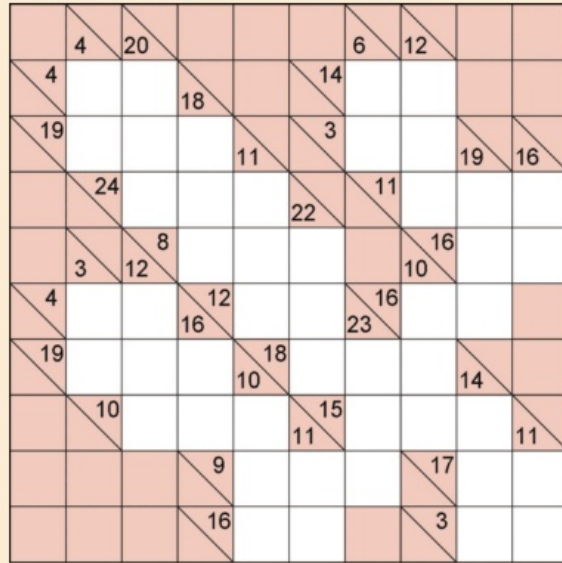
### Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

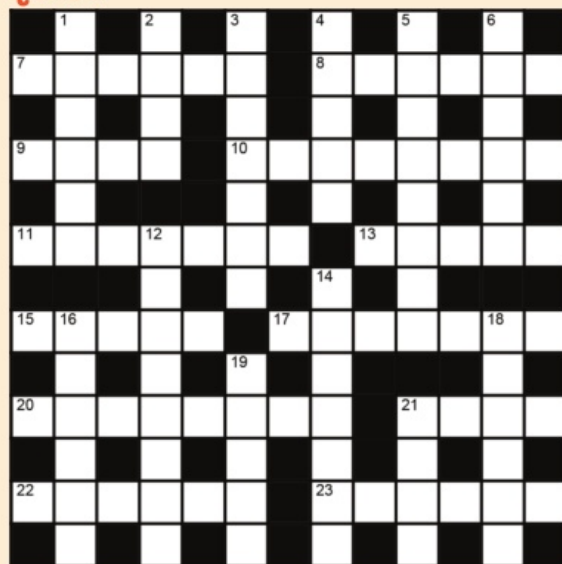


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



### Quick



#### ACROSS

- 7 Joining metals by melting (6)
- 8 Boatman of the river Styx (6)
- 9 Sans serif or Arial (4)
- 10 Lasts longer or persists after (8)
- 11 Using a trump on a bridge table (7)
- 13 Concert hall (5)
- 15 Don clothing (5)
- 17 Sculpture (7)
- 20 Field Marshal K.M. \_\_\_\_ : first Indian C-in-C of Indian Army? (8)
- 21 One Caribbean republic (4)
- 22 J in J K Rowling (6)
- 23 Make possible; authorise (6)

#### DOWN

- 1 Japanese number puzzle (6)
- 2 Faint colour spread over a surface (4)
- 3 Stranded—not at sea? (7)
- 4 Sharp and biting (5)
- 5 1983 World Cup winning captain (5,3)
- 6 A Spanish dance (6)
- 12 Styles or modes of dress (8)
- 14 Ruined or devastated (7)
- 16 With \_\_\_\_ : not unjustifiably? (6)
- 18 A cricket sundry (2-4)
- 19 Engaged in espionage (5)
- 21 Burn slightly (4)

### Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS U  
KCJHQGC FCCYHT WSJW WSC  
YKUCDW IMICDW QU JHH TMR  
CNCK SJNC.



### Linemaro

You look like the morning sun after a long night of darkness



### Mindchow

A woman watches her body uneasily, as though it were an unreliable ally in the battle for love



### Joke of the day

Did you hear about the suicidal homeopath? He took 1/50th of the recommended dose.

### Loop

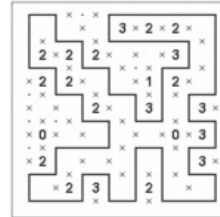
#### Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

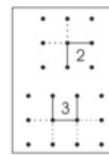
#### How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

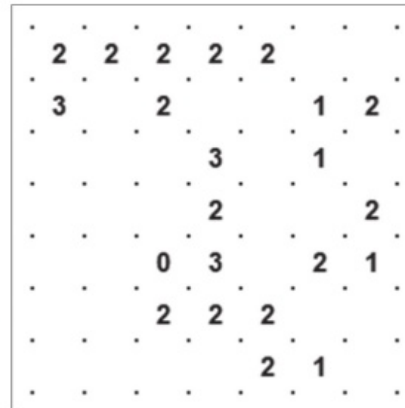
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



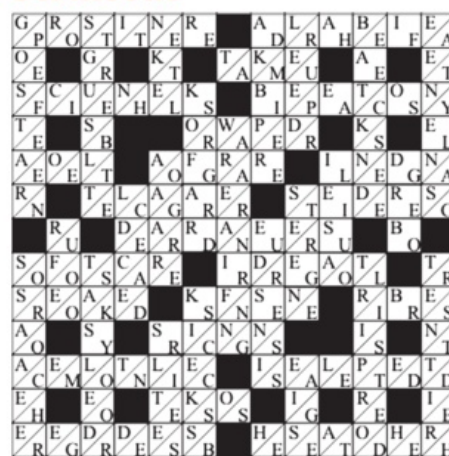
(Fig A)



(Fig B)  
Not Allowed



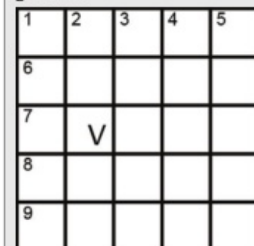
### Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

### Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



#### ACROSS

- 1 Coles; 6 Caret;
- 7 Suave; 8 Ament;
- 9 Be sen

#### DOWN

- 1 Mr Cub; 2 Vee Le;
- 3 Canoe; 4 Antes;
- 5 Asset

### Mensapuzzle

Which number needs to be added to the final grid?



### Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 12 Good; 14 Outstanding



### SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

### Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



#### Easy

$\square \square \square \square = 12$

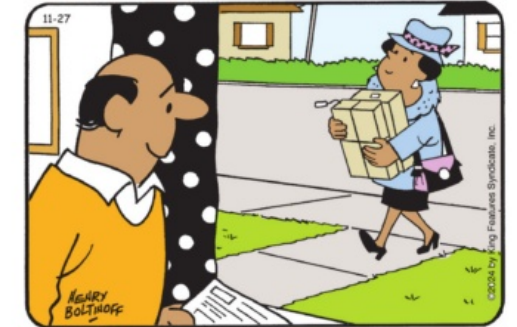
$\square \square \square \square = 12$

$\square \square \square \square = 12$

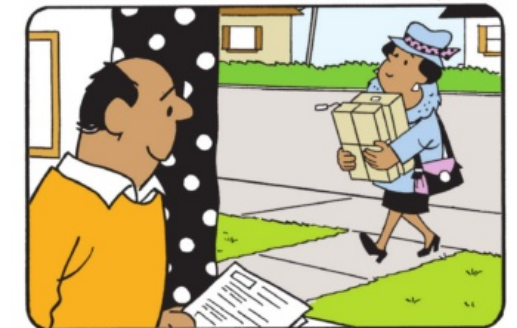
$\square \square \square \square = 9$

$\square \square \square \square = 9$

### Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Nose is smaller. 2. Hand is moved. 3. Newspaper is longer. 4. Sweater is different. 5. Man has more hair. 6. Window is moved.

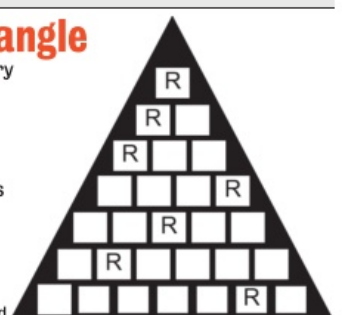
### Riddler

When I was walking across a bridge, I saw a boat crowded with people. But there wasn't a single person on the boat. How could this be?

### Alpha triangle

- 1 Radius in geometry
- 2 Again, prefix
- 3 Scarlet
- 4 Beloved
- 5 Challenges
- 6 Curtains
- 7 Gratifies, indulges

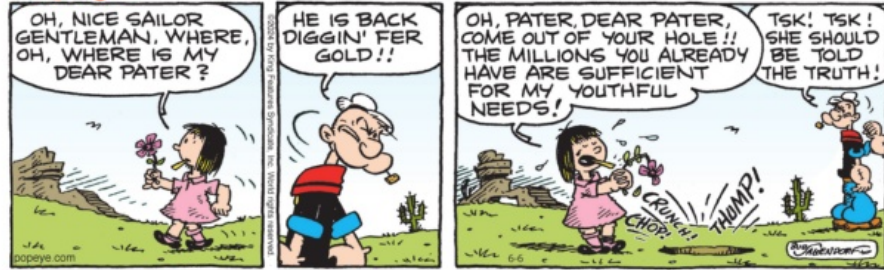
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



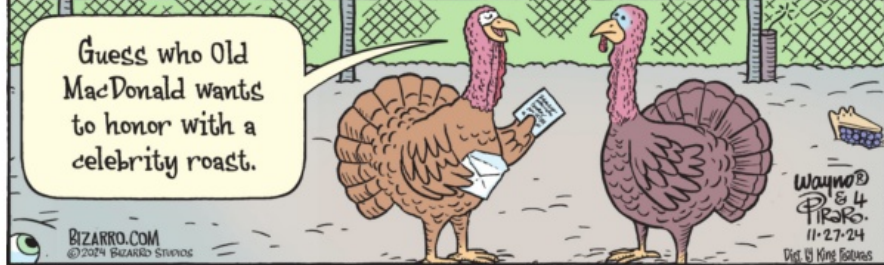
made at each step answering to the clue given.

## COMICS

## Popeye



## Bizarrotrip



## Diamond Lil



## Hart of the city



## Crankshaft



## Mutts



## WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

## Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, you may make decisions quickly, which could bring benefits in daily life. With the support of colleagues, you might make some challenging decisions, and achieve success with ease. Property-related disputes with siblings may be resolved, and short trips could be on the horizon.



## Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

The Moon's blessings bring financial growth as new income sources open up. Past investments will start yielding profits, boosting your financial health. Additionally, any health concerns related to your parents may now be resolved.



## Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

The Moon's blessings will help you make quick professional decisions. New business opportunities may arise, boosting your confidence. A new innovation, possibly in partnership, could lead to business expansion in the near future.



## Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

You are advised to control your straightforward nature, as loose words might impact those around you. Be mindful of your spending, as you may be tempted to buy unnecessary items. Your mind will be highly active today, but patience is key when making important decisions.



## Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Your strong network will help you implement business plans successfully. Wisdom will play a crucial role in securing a big order. A deeper understanding with your spouse will enhance domestic harmony, and lovebirds will cherish joyful moments together.



## Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

With the Moon's favor, you will perform well at work. Promotions or job transfers with financial benefits may be expected. A job change might also be on your mind. Improved relations with your boss will work in your favor. Additionally, chronic health issues will likely be resolved, bringing happiness to your family.



## Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

With the blessings of the Moon, past disappointments may turn into happiness. You will enjoy both your personal and professional life. Your network will assist in completing delayed projects, and you may embark on a new venture with the help of siblings and close contacts.



## Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

The chaos of the past few days is now under control, thanks to the Moon's blessings. You can restart postponed work and may receive rewards for your hard efforts. Business gains will improve your finances. You may also spend on art or literature and consider planning an overseas trip.



## Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Things will be under control today, and you will enjoy your work. Your focus and wisdom will help you navigate professional challenges and make difficult decisions. Past investments will begin to yield positive returns.



## Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Negativity and impatience may cloud your mind today, making it difficult to focus on your goals. Progress in projects could slow down, leading to potential losses in business or work. A sense of detachment from responsibilities might disrupt your routine, so it's important to stay grounded.



## Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

You may not feel your best today, as health issues could affect both your professional and personal life. Concerns over your spouse's health may add to your stress. Patience will be tested, and you are advised to avoid new business investments to prevent losses. Students should stay focused on their studies instead of indulging in distractions.



## Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

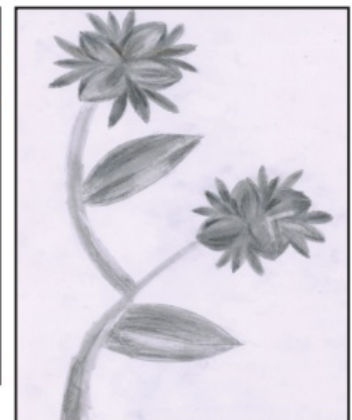
You may feel dissatisfied with your current situation at work or home. Enjoyment might be hard to find today. Be cautious with your spending, as unnecessary purchases could impact your savings. Thoughts of relocation may cross your mind. Additionally, take extra care of your parents' health.



KIDZONE

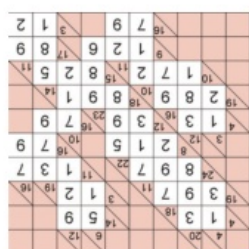


Jaelynn D, 8 years, Bengaluru

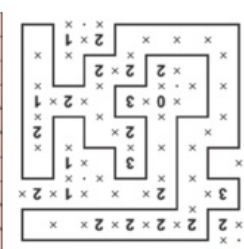
Naina Akshay  
Girish,  
11 years,  
NAFL school

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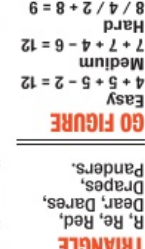
## SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



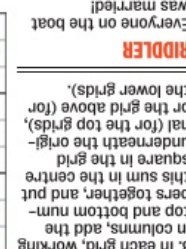
LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



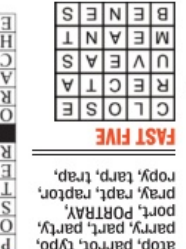
MENSA PUZZLE



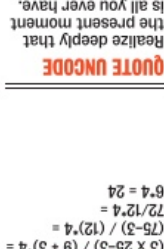
QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULL'S EYE



SOLVE IN 1M



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